

Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

Discussion

Intelligence has always been the driving force of Marine Corps operations and planning, and the foundation upon which current and future operational capabilities are built. Surveillance and Reconnaissance are the means of collecting and reporting information from which intelligence is derived. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) will be critical to the successful execution of Operational Maneuver from the Sea (OMFTS) and support to the Marine Corps of the next century.

From an intelligence perspective, OMFTS relies heavily on the MAGTF commander's ability, prior to arrival in the operating area, to gain timely, accurate, and relevant information on the enemy and operating environment in order to exploit the enemy's weaknesses and avoid the enemy's strengths. Once committed, organic ISR must provide 360 degree, three-dimensional, situational awareness for widely dispersed units, and the means to disseminate intelligence requirements in an expeditious and interactive fashion. Overall, OMFTS presents formidable challenges to organic collection, processing, and dissemination capabilities, as well as to the MAGTF's ability to leverage support from both theater and national level assets.



To meet these challenges, ISR will leverage emerging technologies and employ a combination of robust organic tactical assets and connectivity to theater and national capabilities. OMFTS will require ISR sensors that can be launched and controlled from ship, and the ability for intelligence to support planning and operations both afloat and ashore. ISR support to the Marine Corps of the 21st Century will place greater demands for new collection capabilities that are sustained, non-intrusive, and capable of complementing and operating with efforts already in place. Urban operations, for example, will require locally controlled, multifunctional aerial collection of imagery through organic manned and unmanned platforms with multiple modular payloads capable of providing continuous day/night, all weather coverage. Marine Corps Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) and Counter-Intelligence/Human Source Intelligence (CI/HUMINT) will require similar innovation. While technology is an important part in developing a 21st Century ISR capability, the ongoing, multi-year program to revitalize Marine Corps intelligence personnel and training will play as critical a role.

Development and maintenance of a friendly/enemy common picture of the battlespace is critical. In order to exploit the complex and dynamic operational environment of tomorrow, commanders must maintain continuous situational awareness. As the intelligence segment of MAGTF C4I, the Intelligence Analysis System (IAS) will provide the intelligence portion of the MAGTF commander's common picture of the battlespace with connectivity to higher and adjacent headquarters.

Marine Corps Position

In recognition of the increasingly crucial role intelligence plays on the modern battlefield, the leadership of the Marine Corps is committed to providing the resources necessary to ensure Marine Corps intelligence is organized, trained, and equipped to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.